

WELTON PARISH COUNCIL

RE-OPENING OF PLAYING FIELD AND EQUIPMENT, AND SPINNEY

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 and subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”. It is made very clear that “Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law”. On that basis, this Risk Assessment takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place in the context of the open access play equipment in Welton.

Playing Field and Spinney

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Assessment	Conclusion
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	The equipment has been checked prior to re-opening; with one exception it is all O.K.. The exception has been taped off with red and white warning tape, and ‘Do Not Use’ signs attached.	There are no general maintenance issues.
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit number of users at any one time• Booking system• Advisory signage• Create waiting areas with barriers	The equipment is well spaced; the only issues may arise in relation to the climbing frames. Advisory signage is the only practical solution.	Appropriate signage will be provided.
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Play Equipment• Seating Areas• Refuse Bins	This is not practically possible – we do not have the staff or funding available.	It is accepted that there is a risk of children using the play equipment passing the virus; however, this is no

	<p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>The advisory signage will cover most of these points. Providing hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities is not an option due to the location, the lack of staff to monitor the facilities and the possible risk of removal/theft.</p>	<p>greater than them being at school or playing with other children generally.</p>
Face Coverings	<p>A face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. Parents should be aware that wearing a face covering in a playground setting could pose an additional safety risk and should use their judgement on whether their children wear a face covering.</p>	<p>Not possible to monitor.</p>	<p>This is for the individual to decide, not the Parish Council.</p>
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians regarding the consumption of food and drink, and disposal of litter.</p>	<p>The provision of signage, the Parish Council website and generally by word of mouth, should provide sufficient communication with potential users.</p>	<p>The steps proposed would mitigate the risks significantly.</p>
Considering Children with Additional Needs	<p>Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.</p>	<p>These are risks which can only be assessed by carers/parents or guardians.</p>	<p>The Parish Council is not a provider of specialist services for children with additional needs.</p>

Conclusions:- The playing field area and Spinney provide a much needed areas for children to exercise in a safe environment. The advice from National County Association, SLCC, NCALC and the Government, has been studied at length. Whilst it must be acknowledged that there is some risk of the transmission of Covid-19, it is the view of Welton Parish Council, having taken all the steps outlined above, that the play areas could safely re-open.

Risk Assessment agreed by all councillors. 16th July 2020